Persons run over by New Delhi-Guwahati Rajdhani Express

253. SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of persons were run over by the New Delhi-Guwahati Rajdhani Express at Punarakh in Bihar sometime in the second week of January, 2000;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, stating the outcome of the inquiry conducted into the mishap; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Twenty persons were run over (11 killed and 9 injured) by the New Delhi-Guwahati Rajdhani Express at Punarakh in Bihar on 09.01.2000. An inquiry by Railway officers of Junior Administrative Grade has been ordered. The report is awaited.

Safety aspects in Railways

254. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether safety aspects in Railways have been reviewed;

(b) if so, the results thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken to check the recent spurt in Rail accidents, especially in SC Railway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Railway accords highest priority to Safety in Train Operations. Safety in train operations is an ongoing and continuous process. The Railway Safety Review Committee set up under the chairmanship of Justice H.R. Khanna, a Retd. Judge of Supreme Court has submitted Part-I of their Report. Part-II of their Report is yet to be received. In Part-I, the Committee has made 150 recommendations.

(b) It is proposed to take action on those recommendations, which will be accepted by the Government. The provision of safety system and equipment are provided progressively depending upon the availability of funds.

(c) On South Central Railway the consequential train accidents have reduced to 38 during April 1999-January 2000, from the level of 43 during the same period of the preceding year.

Development of Tirupati Railway Station

255. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tirupati Railway Station is to be developed for the benefit of tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount sanctioned for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Adequate amenities commensurate with the volume of traffic handled have already been provided at Tirupati railway station. Certain amenities such as self printing ticketing